

8 *Mr. Stone, on the Identity of the Variable T Coronæ.*

Date. 1866.	Mag.	Colour, &c.
Oct. 8	7.6	
10	7.5	Yellow.
14	7.5	Light yellow.
19	7.7	Light yellow.
28	7.8	Yellow.
Nov. 6	7.9	Smyth's orange No. 4.

It will be noticed that in the recent observations no mention is made of the blue tinge which formed so striking a feature for some time after the star's first appearance.

I may state that on the night of the 7th of May I observed all the naked-eye Variables then visible, and also several of the telescopic ones; and, among the latter, two in the constellation *Corona*, but this star, if at that time really visible, entirely escaped my notice. The nights between the 7th and 15th were cloudy at Manchester; but on the latter date the sky being very clear, the new star at once arrested my attention on proceeding to make my usual observations of the naked-eye Variables.

Cheetham Hill, Manchester,
Nov. 8, 1866.

On the Identity of the variable T Coronæ with a Star contained in Wollaston's Catalogue. By E. J. Stone, Esq.

In the *Monthly Notices*, vol. xxvi. No. 8, will be found an extract from a letter of Mr. Graham's, in which attention is drawn to a supposed observation of a system near T *Coronæ* in Wollaston's Catalogue. In that Catalogue, Zone 63° N.P.D. will be found the following observation:—

R.A. 15^h 51^m ± N.P.D. 63° 29' ±

“Double (Hers. v. 75), v.v. uneq....dist. 41'' 12'''...pos. 16° s.f. It is really quadruple, for the small star is double, and there is a still smaller at about 40° s.p. the small ones.”

The epoch of Wollaston's Catalogue is Jan. 1, 1790. If we bring up the place of this system to the year 1866 we obtain:—

R.A. 15^h 54^m ± N.P.D. 63° 41' ±

The place of the variable T *Coronæ* for the same epoch is—

R.A. 15^h 54^m 53^s.8 N.P.D. 63° 41' 52'' 9.

The position of Wollaston's system appears, therefore, to be nearly identical with that of the variable *T Coronæ*. If we could rely upon Wollaston's observation it would be a most interesting speculation, whether the late intense brightness of *T Coronæ* was not due to the falling of one or more of the components of this system into the central sun. However, on referring to Wollaston's authority, Herschel,* we find as follows:—

“Double. About 1 degree S. following ϵ , in a line parallel to θ and ϵ *Coronæ*; the preceding of three forming an arch. Extremely unequal. r.l.; s. darker r. Distance $41'' 12'''$. Position $16^{\circ} 0' S.$ following.”

If we take Sir W. Herschel's description of the position of his double star, viz. “1 degree S. following, in a line parallel to θ and ϵ *Coronæ*,” we shall find that the star 2767 of Argelander's Zone + 26° agrees very closely with Sir W. Herschel's description of place. This star is also “the preceding of three forming an arch.” It is double: the relative positions of the components agree closely with those assigned by Herschel. I believe, therefore, that this is Herschel's system.

This paper of Sir W. Herschel's was read before the Royal Society, December 9, 1784. Wollaston's Catalogue was published 1789.

I am unable to find any authority for Wollaston's statement that the system is really quadruple. Wollaston's optical means were hardly sufficient to supply omissions on the part of Sir W. Herschel. I cannot help thinking, therefore, that we have unfortunately some confusion or mistake on Wollaston's part, with reference to this observation, and that the ground is too unsafe for speculation.

A Description of some Apparatus employed in the Adjustment of Sextants. By William Simms, Esq.

Considering that the adjustment of the Sextant has lately occupied the attention of some of the Members of the Royal Astronomical Society, I beg to present a short statement of what has been attempted by myself in this direction.

Several years since, in consequence of a prolonged absence of clear weather, I was compelled to direct my attention towards finding some substitute for the Sun's disk in effecting the various adjustments of the instrument.

For the purpose of obtaining the index error, and adjusting the dark shades, I temporarily fitted up a telescope of about $2\frac{1}{2}$

* Hers. v. 75, July 18, 1782, *Phil. Trans.* 1785, p. 109.